

My name is Jaye Carlson

I live in Guilford

Thank you to all the leaders, representatives, Senators and legislature for hearing our testimonies

My Son Anders has just turns 21 and has Down Syndrome

You can find Anders at DD on most weekdays because he works there. On his days off, I am often texted by the manager asking if Anders is coming in that day. He takes great pride and ownership for his responsibilities. He is as reliable as clockwork and everyone knows that. He is a valued employee and a needed employee. I tell you this because it is all of you that have made this possible. Without the support and funding to get Anders to where he is today, he may have become a very different young man. As Anders exits from the Guilford School system in June, he will become a PAID employee at DD. And he will be paid the exact same amount as all the other employees, and pay the same taxes into the state and federal government as the other employees. This is all possible because of the supports in place through funding for transportation and job coaching and the life skills needed to give back to the community that brought him to where he is today. We are in great hope that this testimony can share some of the wonderful successful stories that are in CT due to all of your hard work to keep our families supported. We thank you for your hard work and dedication and please know that individuals with intellectual disabilities are also hardworking and dedicated to giving back to others. It takes a village. Please keep our village in mind when you work with our funding.